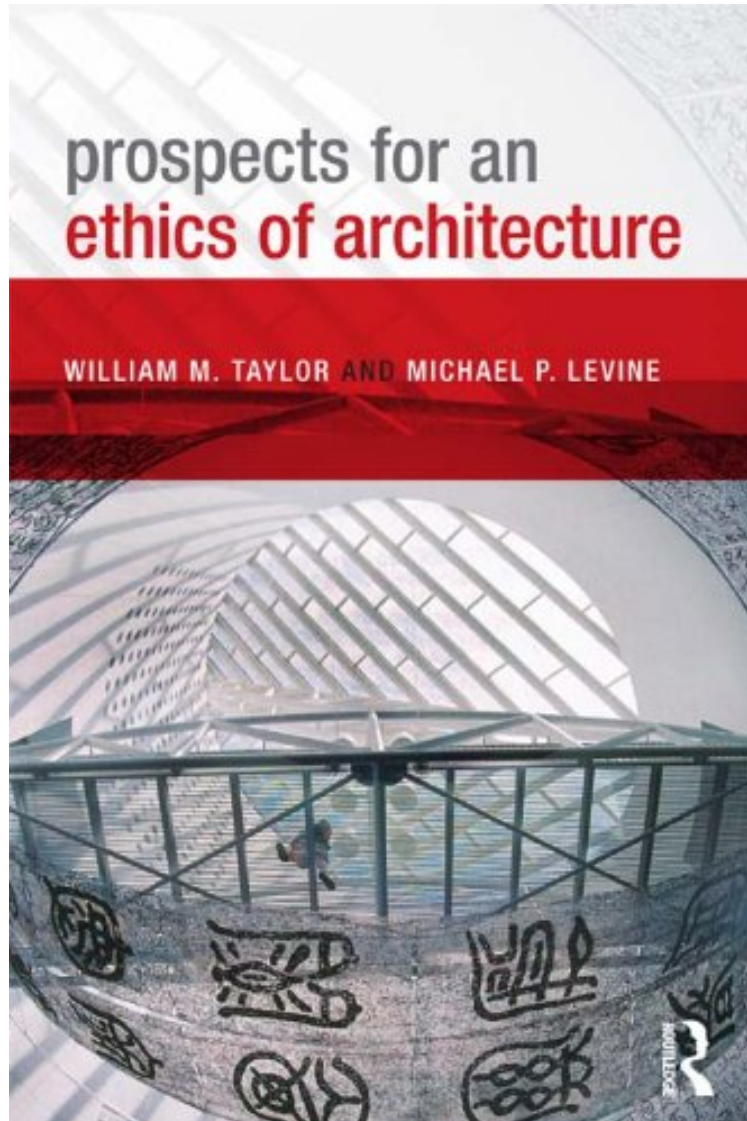


Prospects for an Ethics of Architecture

William M. Taylor, Michael P. Levine

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William M. Taylor, Michael P. Levine : Prospects for an Ethics of Architecture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prospects for an Ethics of Architecture:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Architects need ethics?!?!?By AesthikoProfessor Levine has been engaged with architecture since at least 1984 when one of his students, a brilliant architect in his own right, exposed him to the diverse ethical dilemmas architects grapple with every day; it is these that Levine addresses here. Are salmon-coloured bricks a valid response in the Kantian sense to Rorty's approach to justice? Can Rawlsian justice theory really justify post-modern overemployment of curves in third-world countries? And above all, who should be the first architect tried for crimes against humanity, Jounl;rn Uuml;tzon or Frank Gehry? Surprisingly a Levinean

pantheist deontology comes in very handy for addressing such matters, though the language is tricky for the beginner and some of the more personal anecdotes are perplexing; exactly how fluorescent cockroaches illuminate the relation of Spinozan aesthetics to neo-classicism remains something of a mystery to this reader (and architect). But Levine does the built environment and its enthusiasts a great service by introducing them to the admittedly improbable but exciting concept of an ethical architecture.

Bringing together the reflections of an architectural theorist and a philosopher, this book encourages philosophers and architects, scholars and designers alike, to reconsider what they do as well as what they can do in the face of challenging times. It does so by exploring the notion that architecture and design can (and possibly should), in their own right, make for a distinctive form of ethical investigation. The book is less concerned with absolutist understandings of the two components of ethics, a theory of 'the good' and a theory of 'the right', than with remaining open to multiple relations between ideas about the built environment, design practices and the plurality of kinds of human subjects (inhabitants, individuals and communities) accommodated by buildings and urban spaces. The built environment contributes to the inculcation of all sorts of values (good and bad). Thus, this book aims to change the way people commonly think about ethics, not only in relation to the built environment, but to themselves, their ways of thinking and modes of behaviour.

About the Author William M. Taylor is Professor of Architecture at the University of Western Australia where he teaches architectural design and history and theory of the built environment. His recent work includes *The Vital Landscape, Nature and the Built Environment in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Ashgate, 2004), the edited collection *The Geography of Law, Landscape and Regulation* (Hart, Oxford, 2006) and the co-edited book *An Everyday Transience: The Urban Imaginary of Goldfields Photographer John Joseph Dwyer* (UWA Press, 2010). He is currently researching the subject of architecture and transience and preparing a collection of essays on architecture, ships and the sea. Michael P. Levine is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Western Australia. He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College, Baruch College (City University of New York), the University of Virginia, and in Moscow as a Fulbright Fellow. Recent publications include *Politics Most Unusual: Violence, Sovereignty and Democracy in the War on Terror* (co-authored); *Integrity and the Fragile Self* (2003, co-authored); *Racism in Mind* (2003, co-edited); *The Analytic Freud* (ed.); and articles on moral psychology, philosophy of religion, history of philosophy, metaphysics, and film. He is currently writing on philosophy and film.